FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS/East Timor

SUBJECT: Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for FY 2000 ... S. 1234. Leahy amendment No. 1179.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 98-0

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1234, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2000, will provide a total of \$12.74 billion in new budget authority for foreign aid programs, which is \$18.98 billion less than appropriated for FY 1999 (the large difference is due primarily to a one-time appropriation of \$17.86 billion that was made for International Monetary Programs last year) and is \$1.87 billion below the Administration's request of \$14.62 billion.

The Leahy amendment would direct the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Treasury (acting through United States executive directors to international financial institutions) to intensify their efforts to prevail upon the Indonesian Government and military: to disarm and to disband anti-independence militias in East Timor; to grant full access to East Timor by international human rights monitors, humanitarian organizations, and the press; to allow Timorese who have been living in exile to return to East Timor to campaign and to vote in the ballot on independence; and to release all political prisoners. The President would be required to submit a report within 15 days on the steps taken by the Administration to comply with this amendment and on any steps taken by the Indonesian Government and military to achieve the above-listed goals; United States support for international lending to Indonesia would have to take into consideration the extent to which the Indonesian Government and military tried to achieve the above-listed goals.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

Just 9 days after it was given its independence from colonial rule 23 years ago, East Timor was seized by Indonesia. It has been

(See other side) YEAS (98) NOT VOTING (2) NAYS (0) Republicans Republicans Republican **Democrats Democrats Democrats** (53 or 100%) (45 or 100%) (0 or 0%) (0 or 0%) **(2)** (0)Mack-2 Abraham Helms Akaka Kennedy McCain-2 Kerrey Allard Hutchinson Baucus Ashcroft Hutchison Bayh Kerry Bennett Inhofe Biden Kohl Bond Jeffords Bingaman Landrieu Brownback Kyl Boxer Lautenberg Bunning Lott Breaux Leahy Burns Lugar Bryan Levin Lieberman Campbell McConnell Byrd Chafee Murkowski Cleland Lincoln Cochran Nickles Conrad Mikulski Collins Roberts Daschle Moynihan Coverdell Roth Dodd Murray Craig Santorum Dorgan Reed Reid **EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:** Crapo Sessions Durbin Robb DeWine Shelby Edwards 1—Official Business Domenici Smith, Bob Feingold Rockefeller 2-Necessarily Absent Enzi Smith, Gordon Feinstein Sarbanes 3-Illness Fitzgerald Snowe Graham Schumer 4-Other Specter Harkin Torricelli Frist Gorton Stevens Hollings Wellstone SYMBOLS: Gramm Thomas Inouye Wyden AY—Announced Yea Grams Thompson Johnson AN-Announced Nay Grassley Thurmond Voinovich PY-Paired Yea Gregg Hagel Warner PN-Paired Nay Hatch

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wracked by violence and brutal government repression ever since. More than 200,000 East Timorese, one-third of the original population, have been massacred. This year, at long last, it appears that an end may be in sight to the brutal violence. Indonesian President Habibie announced on January 27 that the East Timorese would be allowed to vote on independence. On May 5, the governments of Portugal (the former colonial ruler of East Timor) and Indonesia signed an agreement to hold a United Nations' supervised "consultation" vote on August 8 to determine East Timor's future political status. Since that time, anti-independence militias have been conducting an escalating campaign of murder and intimidation against the East Timorese in an effort to disrupt the vote. There are repeated reports that the militias are being armed by the Indonesian military, and the Indonesian military has not been intervening to stop the violence. The violence has been so extreme it has already caused the vote to be postponed until August 21; if it is not curtailed it will likely make it impossible to have the vote, or it will call into question the validity of the results. We have therefore proposed this amendment, which would order the Clinton Administration to prevail upon Indonesia to stop the violence and intimidation. It would specifically require the United States to use certain economic pressure to achieve that result. East Timor is at a critical juncture. After being subjected to more than 2 decades of genocidal oppression, it may soon be given a chance to determine its own fate. This amendment will make it more likely that it will get that chance. We urge our colleagues to support this amendment.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.